

Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update: 05/07/10



DISEASE INFORMATION

Summary – Weeks 16 and 17 – Ending 04/23/10 and 4/30/10 – Disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period April 18 – May 1, 2010 included the following:

- Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Varicella (3), invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (1), invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* (1)
- Enteric Diseases: Campylobacteriosis (2), Cryptosporidiosis (1), Giardiasis (3), Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (1), non-0157 STEC (1), Salmonellosis (1), Shigellosis (1)
- Other Conditions: Infant Botulism (1), Colorado Tick Fever (91)
- Travel Related Conditions: None

NOTE: The report has multiple pages reflecting the following information: (1) vaccine preventable and enteric diseases YTD; (2) other communicable diseases YTD; (3) cases just this week; (4) clusters and outbreaks; and (5) an STD summary.

THE "BUZZ"

Influenza

Montana – Activity level in Montana for weeks 16 and 17 is **NO ACTIVITY**. **NEW!** There have been no Montana Public Health Laboratory PCR confirmed influenza cases since April 7. **IMPORTANT!** Please remind providers to send specimens to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for PCR testing, regardless of rapid influenza test results, if the individual presents with an influenza-like-illness and a definitive diagnosis is desired. **Rapid influenza tests should be interpreted with caution at this time.** Per IDSA Guidelines, a confirmatory test such as PCR or viral culture should be considered when the prevalence of influenza is low (<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/598513>).

Current information on influenza testing by the Montana Public Health Laboratory:
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/enviro-lab-index.shtml>.

United States - During weeks 16 and 17 (04/24/10 and 5/1/10), influenza activity continued to decline.
(<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>)

INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Montana Public Health - The April Issue of Montana Public Health, *Montana, the Last Best Place, Is Unfortunately Also Last in the Country in Childhood Immunization* is available at
http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/prevention_opps/pdf/MPHApril2010.pdf.

Reminder: 4 Dose PEP for Rabies – As a reminder, the ACIP issued new recommendations for post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies in March 2010. The new recommendations include the use of a 4 dose regimen.
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/rr5902.pdf>

Availability of New Heptavalent Botulinum Antitoxin (H-BAT) - CDC has announced the availability of a new heptavalent botulinum antitoxin (HBAT, Cangene Corporation) through a CDC-sponsored Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Investigational New Drug (IND) protocol. HBAT replaces a licensed bivalent botulinum antitoxin AB and an investigational monovalent botulinum antitoxin E (BAT-AB and BAT-E, Sanofi Pasteur) with expiration of these products on March 12, 2010. As of March 13, 2010, HBAT became the only botulinum antitoxin available in the United States for naturally occurring non-infant botulism. **Please call the CDEpi program for assistance and consultation on all suspected botulism cases 406.444.0273 24/7/365.** For more information on H-BAT:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5910a4.htm>.

Spring Time Outdoor Safety - The return of warmer temperatures brings thoughts of freedom, relaxation, exploration, and being closer to nature. Whether you're relaxing in the backyard, turning up your garden, hitting the pool, or exploring the great outdoors, here are some ways to help keep you and your family healthy this spring and summer.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/MovingOutdoors/>

Incidence of Foodborne Illness, 2009 Report - The Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) is the principal foodborne disease component of CDC's Emerging Infections Program (EIP). FoodNet is a collaborative project of the CDC, 10 state health departments (CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Foodborne diseases monitored through FoodNet include infections caused by the bacteria *Campylobacter*, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio*, and *Yersinia*, and the parasites *Cryptosporidium* and *Cyclospora*.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsFoodborneIllness/>

24/7 AVAILABILITY

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology program is available 24 hours a day/7days a week/365 days a year. Please call 406.444.0273 if you need immediate communicable disease epidemiology assistance. The answering service will take a message and we will return the call as quickly as possible.

This newsletter is produced by the Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program. Questions regarding its content should be directed to 406.444.0273 (24/7/365). For more information: <http://cdepi.hhs.mt.gov>.

Montana Public Health Newsletter

Influenza activity across the United States continues to decline, the CDC reported today, with the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza below the epidemic threshold.